THE

Theatrical Observer.

AND

Daily Bills of the Play.

" Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice."—*Othello.*

No. 6559. *SATURDAY, Dec.* 31, 1842. *Price* 1*d.*

" The Play's the thing."—Ask for *Thomas's Observer.*

COVENT GARDEN THEATRE.

On Tuesday next, Mrs. Alfred Shaw will appear in the Opera of *Semiramide;* and in the course of a few days will make her appearance in *The Beggar's Opera,* as *Captain Macheath.* She will soon afterwards make her *debut* in Rossini's Opera of *La Donna del Lago.* On Wednesday next, Auber's celebrated Opera of *Gustavus the Third ; or, the Masked Ball !* will be produced here.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.

This Evening, The Way of the World, The Bastile, and Riquet with the Tuft. This Theatre will be obliged to close by its license on the 14th of January, until Easter next.

Adelphi.—This Theatre was last night again crowded to see the new Burletta of *The Merchant and his Clerks,* Mr. E. Stirling's new Farce, called *Yankee Notes for English Circulation,* (in which Mr. Rice was encored in his popular Negro Melodies, and created great laughter and applause,) and the new Pantomime. The last named entertainment has been greatly improved since the first night of its representation, and elicits roars of laughter. Mr. T. Hill performs the part of *Clown.*

Pantomimes.—The original Harlequinades of the Continent, for which, at the commencement of the last century, the Opera Comique at Paris was so celebrated all over Europe, were admired for their pasquinades, their bon-mots, their political squibs, and their personal satire and lampoons. These were medley pasquinades dramatised. It was the celebrated Mr. John Rich, the proprietor of Drury Lane, who introduced the Pantomime of dumb show. This was the oft-mentioned Rich who brought out Gay's Opera, after it had been refused at the other house, and the success of which gave rise to the epigram that " Gay was made rich and Rich was made gay." The Pantomime was first introduced at the Theatre in Lincoln's Inn Fields. It consisted of two parts, the one serious the other droll and ludicrous, in which the mind was allowed to run riot. The first Pantomime was called *Harlequin Sorcerer,* and was brought out in 1717, and the last produced by Mr. Rich was in 1760; and notwithstanding all that Colley Cibber, the admirer of the legitimate drama, and the critics, classical and non-classical, could write against these " barbarous innovations," every pantomime had eminent success, the greater number of them running between forty and fifty nights successively. Mr. Rich's Pantomimes now spread all over Europe, and in 1761, they gave rise to a most curious exhibition at Drury Lane. Garrick, the manager, got up a grand spectacle, in honour of the coronation of George III. All the machinery and contrivance of the pantomime were put in requisition, the stage was extended by awning to

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the st[illegible]alled Drury Lane, and the grand *coup de theatre* was the throv[illegible]pen the stage to the street, so that the audience might behold thro[illegible] the side scenes in the back grounds, a real bonfire and a real mo[illegible]rinking porter and letting off squibs to the honour of his most gracious Majesty.

Two years after Drury-lane and Covent-garden Theatres were nearly demolished by the fury of riots, occasioned by the managers not allowing half-prices on nights when pantomimes were not performed.

Fashionable Lounges.

To the Editor of The Theatrical Observer,

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—Just wish to say a word—beg pardon, hope I don't intrude—but will you excuse me—I have to mention that I've arranged so as to rub shoulders with my friends and the fashionable world at one or other of the *Grand Lounges* about town :—

Monday, paid another visit to the THAMES TUNNEL, which is now completed, and is 1,200 feet in length. The entrance is now on the Middlesex side, close to the Tunnel Pier at Wapping; the entrance to Rotherhithe is closed, in order to finish a new Staircase; on the completion of which the Tunnel will be opened as a thoroughfare for foot Passengers. Generally go by one of the steam boats, either from Hungerford, Adelphi, Temple Bar, Blackfriars Brydge, Old Shades Pier, or London Bridge,—very convenient.

Tuesday, stroll to view the magnificent and numerous additions just added to MADAME TUSSAUD'S elegant Exhibition, Golden Corinthian Saloon, Baker-street, Portman-square :—An Historical Group, in Magnificent Armour, the Prince and Princess Royal, in their splendid cot, the King of Prussia, Commissioner Lin and his Consort, the gorgeous Robes of George the Fourth designed by himself at a cost of 18,000*l.*, &c.—This exhibition is crowded daily with the *elite* of society.

In the evening got the best shilling's worth I ever paid for in my life at the ROYAL ADELAIDE GALLERY, Lowther Arcade, Strand, where indeed all the arts and sciences met me with open arms—a graud Promenade Concert, vocal and instrumental, supported by the first performers of the day, followed by a popular Lecture on the Bude and Drummond Lights,—saw the humerous effects of the Laughing Gas—the wonderful Gas Microscope, and 30 magnificent Dissolving Views of Ghusnee, Cabul, &c. and portraits of Robert Burns, Lord Nelson, Prince Albert. &c.

Wednesday, visit the *Chinese Collection*, St. George's Place, Hyde Park Corner. It consists of objects exclusively Chinese, comprising upwards of 50 figures as large as life, in their native costume, from the highest mandarin to the mechanic; and replete with articles illustrative of their manufactures, habits, and domestic arrangements. Also many thousand specimens, both in Natural History and Miscellaneous Curiosities, illustrating the manners, &c. of 300,000,000 Chinese.

Afterwards, amuse myself by skating on the Artificial Ice, at the Baker Street Bazaar, Portman-square. This is a wonderful invention, there being upwards of 3,000 feet of beautiful Ice, on which skaters can enjoy their favourite amusement in all seasons, surrounded by snow-clad Alpine scenery, forming a beautiful and faithful Panorama of Lucerne and its frozen lake. Open from ten in the morning till five, and from seven till ten in the evening, when it is brilliantly illuminated.

In my way from the Theatre, drop into the *Harmonic Meeting*, held at EVANS'S Grand Hotel, King Street, Covent Garden, quite delighted with the excellence of the singing—commences every evening at ten o'clock. When Mrs. P. is out of town, stay a week, and only pay a guinea for bed and breakfast. I'm always to be found on Saturday, at half-past five, at the Convivial Dinner held here.

Thursday, dropped into the LOWTHER BAZAAR, in the Strand—in addition to the usual accessories of such a place, is a Cosmorama fitted up with so much ingenuity that the spectator, with a very slight help from the fancy, might imagine that he was looking from some real cavern upon some of the most exquisite scenes on England's coast. The articles are unusually reasonable, and the greatest civility characterizes the establishment. It is very well attended, and to those who have not heard the Euterpeon it will be a great treat—there is no charge.

In the evening I am to be found at ANDERTON'S HOTEL, Fleet Street, enjoying some delightful singing at the Harmonic Meeting held there: the principal singers consist of Mr. R. Cook, Mr. Bannister, Mr. Delevante, and Mr. Moody, the well-known comic singer. An eniment pianist presides. The concert commences at eight, and attracts vast audiences. Excellent dinners always ready between twelve and seven o'clock,—the soups delicious, and the terms moderate.

Saturday, I examine MISS LINWOOD'S curious Needle Work, Leicester-square—lately added other beautiful specimens of her art.—But I intrude—beg pardon—Your's &c.—PAUL PRY.

Theatre Royal, Covent Garden.

This Evening, Dr. Arne's Opera of

ARTAXERXES.

Artaxerxes, (3rd Time) Mrs ALFRED SHAW,
Arbaces, Mr MANVERS, Artabanes, Mr W. HARRISON.
Mandane, Miss RAINFORTM, Semira, Miss POOLE.

After which, the Farce of

DEAF AS A POST.

Tristram Sappy..Mr HARLEY, Captain Templeton, Mr COOPER,
OldWalton,MrGRANBY, Gallop, MrMoore, Crupper, MrCollett,
AmyTempleton, MissFLOYD, SophiaWalton, Miss COLLETT.
(Her First Appearance.)
Mrs Plumpley..Mrs TAYLEURE, Sally Maggs..Mrs ORGER.

To conclude with, (6th Time) a New Christmas Harlequinade, by writers of "Punch, or the London Charivari," entitled

Punch's Pantomime!

OR, HARLEQUIN

KING JOHN

AND

Magna Charta!

The Overture and the whole of the Music hetero and *in*-geniously selected and composed by Mr R. HUGHES. The Scenery by the Messrs. GRIEVE.
The Mechanical Changes, byMr BRADWELL. The Drosses, byMissGLOVER,
The Machinery by Mr SLOMAN. The Pantomime produced (with all the gorgeousness of the EAST) under the direction of Mr WEST.

Programme of the Pantomime:—

RUINS OF THE FORUM IN THE CAMPO VACCINO.
(The well-known Classical Cowmeadow at Rome.)
Oberon, Miss KENDALL, Titania, Mrs EMDEN.
Puck, Miss JAMES, Punch, Miss TAYLOR.

VAULT of the BLACK DIAMOND, in the Castle of Fitzwalter.
BaronFitzwalter, Mr S.SMITH. Lord Chancellor, MrBraithwaite.
King John, Mr W.H.PAYNE, Avisa, Mr GARDEN,
Isabella.....Mr MOORE, The Conducter.....Mr RUSSELL,

Court Yard in Windsor Castle, with an Ancient Reservoir.
(Vulgo—a Water-butt.) In this Scene will be exhibited a Royal Wardrobe in the Twelfth Century. Terrific Combat of Two.

RUNNYMEDE! and ENCAMPMENT OF THE BARONS.
A Small Van with a Great Charta.

Arrival of the Fairy Train. PUNCH IN HIS GLORY.
Surrounded by some of his Old, and by many New Friends.—(W.Bradwell.)
Motley Metamorphoses.
Harlequin..Mr J. RIDGWAY, Columbine..Mrs J. RIDGWAY,
Pantaloon..Mr GARDEN, Clown..Mr T. RIDGWAY,

Olde Schoole House. Exterior of Polytechnic. Bartholomew Fair, 1841. *A Dance between Europe and Africa. Bartholomew Fair,* 1843. *Real way to play Scotch Quadrilles. Exeter Hall and Tobacconist's Shop. Singing for the Million! Mendicity Society's Offices, Fashionable Insurance Office, and Barber's Shop. Grand Tableau of Aldgate Pump! The Chinese Exhibition, (Knightsbridge,) Punch's Water Frolic, with the Lake of Como at a respectful distance.*

On Monday, The Tempest, and the Pantomime.

Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

This Evening, CONGREVE's Comedy of

LOVE for LOVE

ADAPTED FOR REPRESENTATION.

Sampson Legend ..... Mr LAMBERT.
Valentine, Mr ANDERSON,
Ben, Mr KEELEY, Scandal, Mr PHELPS,
Tattle, Mr HUDSON, Foresight, Mr COMPTON,
Jeremy, Mr SELBY, Buckram, Mr HANCE,
Trapland, Mr W. BENNETT,
Angelica ..... Miss ELLIS,
Mrs Foresight, Mrs STIRLING,
MrsFrail, MrsNISBETT, MissPrue, MrsKEELEY,
Nurse..Mrs C. JONES, Jenny..MrsWATSON.

After which (6th time,) a newGrand Tragic-Comic Christmas Pantomime, called

HARLEQUIN AND

WILLIAM TELL;

OR THE

Genius of the Ribstone Pippin

Scenery, by Mr. Danson, and Assistants. Overture and Music by a substitute for Rossini. Dresses, Machinery, &c by Real Swiss Artists.

The Pantomime produced under the superintendence of Mr H. Younge

Scene 1st, Regions of Slavery in the Caverns of Despair.—Patent Fetter Factory
Demon of Despair, Mr Yarnold, Genius of Liberty, MrsWatson,
Britannia, Miss Newcombe,

2nd—Valley and Lake, with Tell's Cottage and snowy peaks of the Alps,
Emma, MrBENDER, Albert, Mr HANCE, Sarnem, Mr HOWELL,
William Tell, Mr C. J, SMITH, Melchtal, Mr STILT,

3rd—Antechamber in the Castle of Altorf.
Gesler, Mr GOURIET,

4th— Mountain Pass with Storm. 5th—Market Place in Altorf.
The appearance of the Genius in the Fairy Ribstone Pippin Bower.

Transformation of the Characters:

Harlequin, Mr C. J. SMITH. Columbine, Miss FAIRBROTHER,
Clown, Mr T. MATTHEWS, Pantaloon, Mr HOWELL,
Twirlabout, Mr STILT,

Office of Bell's Life. Emporium of Fashion, & Seven Bell'e Inn.
Works of Art and Works of Nature, Bells of all kinds. The BELL Assembly.
Infant Infirmary—Register Office, and Yard of the Blue Boar Inn.
Cold water cures—a Christmas Pudding—Parcels of Children.—
"Take Care of the Door."

Arrival of a Curiosity from the ISLE OF MAN, who bears the ARMS and also the LEGS of that place—in this scene will be introduced

The Gem of the Ballet, "La Jolie Fille de Gand."

Pussymeat's Pye House: Shut up Shop. Sausage and Makers.
Outside of the New Tee-total Temperance Music-Hall.
Ancient Kitchen and Bed Room in the Blossoms Inn,

Scene 6th—Gardens of the Hesperides, in which the reconciled Parties are treated with a view of the TELLENSPRUNG.

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Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

This Evening, Shakspeare's Historical Tragedy of

MACBETH.

Duncan, King of Scotland, Mr WALDRON,
Macbeth, Mr MACREADY,
Banquo, Mr ANDERSON, Macduff, Mr PHELPS,
Rosse, Mr ELTON, Lenox, Mr BLAND,
Fleance..Miss GOULD, Seyton..Mr SELBY,
Siward..Mr Yarnold, Physician..Mr Mellon.
Lady Macbeth .. Mrs WARNER,
Gentlewoman .... Miss TURPIN,
Hecate, Mr H. PHILLIPS,
First Witch ..... Mr G. BENNETT,
Second Witch, Mr W. BENNETT,
Third Witch.....Mr RIDER,

After which (13th time,) a new Grand Tragic-Comic Christmas Pantomime, called

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